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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE GLOBAL
CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES
Organizational session
New York, 15 and 16 April 1993
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 47/189, paragraphs 1 and 2, decided to convene the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in April 1994, and accepted with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Barbados to host the Conference.
2. In paragraph 14 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report, to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, containing recommendations on an adequate preparatory process, taking into account the provisions of the resolution and the views expressed by Governments during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

I. BACKGROUND

A. General Assembly resolution 47/189

3. The preamble and operative paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 47/189 constitute the general mandate of the Conference. For the purposes of working out the organizational arrangements of the preparatory process, however, the Secretary-General has paid particular attention to paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

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4. In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the General Assembly affirms that the Conference should elaborate strategies and measures to enhance the sustainable development of small island developing States in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development worldwide.

5. In paragraph 4, the General Assembly decided that the Conference should have the following objectives:

(a) To adopt plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity and improving the quality of life for island people;

(b) To adopt measures that would enable small island developing States to cope effectively and creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources.

6. In the last preambular paragraph of the resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the recommendation in Agenda 21 that small island developing States, with the support, as appropriate, of international organizations, should develop and strengthen inter-island, regional and interregional cooperation and information exchange, including periodic regional and global meetings on the sustainable development of such States. 1/

7. In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the General Assembly also decided that the Conference, in pursuit of its objectives, should examine strategies for national and international action with a view to arriving at specific agreements and commitments by Governments and by intergovernmental organizations for defined activities to promote sustained and environmentally sound development of small island developing States; the Conference should:

(a) Review current trends in the socio-economic development of small island developing States and the prospects, constraints and further options for their sustainable development, taking into consideration the relevant programmes and recommendations in chapter 17, section G, of Agenda 21;

(b) Examine the nature and magnitude of the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States with a view to defining and/or formulating specific indicators of vulnerability in a way that has operational applicability;

(c) Define a number of specific actions and policies relating to environmental and development planning to be undertaken by the small island developing States, with the assistance of the international community, to facilitate the sustainable development of such States;

(d) Identify the elements that small island developing States need to include in their medium- and long-term sustainable development plans, including their response strategies, taking into account the importance of integrating environmental, social and economic factors in the maintenance of cultural and

biological diversity and the conservation of endangered species and critical habitats on both land and sea;

(e) Recommend measures for enhancing the endogenous capacity of small island developing States, in particular the development of human resources and the promotion of access to environmentally sound technology for sustainable development within such States;

(f) Review whether institutional arrangements at the international level enable small island developing States to give effect to the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, and make recommendations in that regard.

8. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the first session of the Preparatory Committee, containing a review of existing global and regional programmes of action with regard to their applicability to and their combined effect on the sustainable development of small island developing States, with specific recommendations on any changes to those programmes of action which might be needed to establish greater consistency with the principles of Agenda 21 with respect to the sustainable development of small island developing States.

B. Other resolutions relevant to the Conference

1. Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (General Assembly resolution 47/190)

9. In paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 47/190, the General Assembly called upon all concerned to implement all commitments, agreements and recommendations reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, especially by ensuring the provision of the means of implementation under section IV of Agenda 21, stressing in particular the importance of financial resources and mechanisms, transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, and international institutional arrangements in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries. The General Assembly also urged Governments, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take the necessary action to give effective follow-up to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. 2/

2. Specific measures in favour of island developing countries (General Assembly resolution 45/202)

10. In resolution 47/186, the General Assembly reaffirmed its resolution 45/202 and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and called for their immediate and effective implementation. The Assembly invited island developing countries to intensify further their regional and subregional cooperative arrangements, particularly to

address the problems of high-cost economies; urged relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take adequate measures to respond positively to the particular needs of island developing countries; urged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to strengthen its role within its mandate as the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and review in a coordinated manner, inter alia, within the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, and the secretariats of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the problems of island developing countries, in particular those of small island developing countries.

11. In resolution 45/202, the General Assembly welcomed efforts made by island developing countries to adopt policies that address their specific problems and took note of "Challenges and opportunities: A strategic framework", which was adopted unanimously by the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, 3/ held at United Nations Headquarters from 25 to 29 June 1990.

II. DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

12. The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will provide one of the first opportunities - and, in its breadth and scale, a unique opportunity - for the international community to put the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development into practice. Planning for and implementing sustainable development in small island developing States is a multifaceted process which calls for a truly integrated approach to environment and development. It will probably involve in some way the implementation of almost every aspect of Agenda 21, taking into account the Rio Declaration and the Statement of Forestry Principles, as well as the widest possible spectrum of actors at the local, national, regional and global levels. The Conference will be seen by many as a microcosm of the hopes, aspirations and objectives which the participants in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development strove to attain. It will also present an early opportunity to tackle many of the challenges foreseen by those participants.

13. In responding to the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 14 of resolution 47/189 for a report containing recommendations on an adequate preparatory process, the Secretary-General has undertaken a preliminary examination of all aspects of the mandate of the Conference as contained in that resolution. As has previously been noted, a considerable level of relevant activity is already in hand within the United Nations system. A significant body of expertise also exists, especially within such organizations as the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the regional commissions, which will need to be taken very carefully into account if the risk of duplication or overlap is to be avoided and the most effective use made of the 12 short months remaining until the Conference. The Secretary-General has already taken a number of steps to this end, including drawing the attention of the newly established

Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, at its first meeting (23-25 March 1993), to the status of the Conference preparations. Arrangements are also in hand to hold an inter-agency meeting involving the secretariats of all relevant United Nations bodies as soon as possible to coordinate a United Nations system-wide approach to the preparatory process.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Organization of work

14. The Secretary-General has taken careful note of the views expressed by Governments during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In the light of these views and in order to organize its work effectively, the Preparatory Committee may wish to examine carefully the overall objectives of the Conference as spelt out in paragraphs 4 and 5 above. The Committee may also wish, at an early stage of its work, to give some thought to the kind of specific outputs it expects from the Conference. In order to organize its work effectively, the Committee may wish to establish informal consultations/working groups to deal with specific issues/agenda items as the need arises.

15. For the preparatory process to be as effective as possible, and to avoid duplication of effort, the Preparatory Committee, at an early stage of its work, may wish to identify those areas in which ongoing activities would be supportive of the preparatory process, as well as other areas in which further work would be needed to meet the mandate of the Conference. Should the Committee determine that, in some areas, ongoing work addresses some of the basic requirements of the preparatory process, the Secretary-General suggests that the Committee decide upon the most appropriate means of fully integrating all relevant aspects of that work into the preparatory process.

B. Schedule of meetings

16. The following schedule of meetings is suggested:

17-21 June 1993	Asia/Pacific region technical meeting, Vanuatu;
June 1993	Caribbean region technical meeting;
2-13 August 1993	Preparatory Committee - substantive session;
4-15 April 1994	Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

C. Other issues

1. Regional meetings

17. In paragraph 16 of resolution 47/189, the General Assembly stressed the importance of holding regional technical meetings on the sustainable development of small island developing States as a means of preparing substantive

contributions to the Conference, and invited relevant regional and subregional bodies, in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other agencies, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to organize such meetings as soon as practicable, preferably in the first half of 1993.

18. A number of possible approaches arise in preparing for regional technical meetings of this kind. It might be helpful, for example, for them to take as the starting-point programme area G (Sustainable development of small islands) of chapter 17 of Agenda 21. The next step might be to link the activities and the means of implementation described in that programme area with those of the other programme areas of Agenda 21. This would entail a thorough examination of all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, in order to identify those programme areas, activities, enabling mechanisms and institutions that are of particular relevance and priority to the region concerned. The results of such work could then be reviewed as possible medium- and long-term activities and means of implementation, with a view to producing a possible input for a working group (see para. 14 above).

19. The work undertaken on defining the priority activities of the programme areas of Agenda 21 for the sustainable development of small island developing States could also provide the basis for identifying the nature of the assistance required of the international community in building up endogenous capacities of small island developing States, as a possible input for another working group (see para. 14 above).

20. The Preparatory Committee might wish to examine the possible modalities for integrating these regional inputs into the preparatory process to achieve maximum effectiveness.

2. Non-governmental participation in the preparatory process

21. In paragraph 18 of resolution 47/189, the General Assembly invited relevant non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries, in particular those from small island developing States, to contribute to the Conference, within the areas of their competence and expertise, on the basis of procedures established for their accreditation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as recommended in paragraph 38.44 of Agenda 21.

22. As with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the community of non-governmental organizations clearly has a major contribution to make to the deliberations of the Conference and its preparatory process and is expected to serve once again as an important channel for disseminating the results of the Conference, as well as for mobilizing public support for strengthened policies at the national and international levels.

3. Participation of developing countries in the Conference

23. The attention of the Committee is drawn to paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 47/189, in which the Assembly decided to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States and the least developed countries to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process, and invited Governments to contribute to the fund.

IV. SECRETARIAT ARRANGEMENTS

24. In paragraph 13 of resolution 47/189 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, within the context of the administrative arrangements to be put in place to coordinate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the servicing of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to establish a focal point with a senior official, at an appropriate level and with the necessary specialized expertise, to service fully the preparations for and holding of the Conference and to ensure such follow-up action as might result therefrom. In a note (A/47/753) and later in a report (A/C.5/47/88), the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly about his decision to entrust the functions related to the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and servicing of the Commission on Sustainable Development to the newly established Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

25. Accordingly, it is envisaged that the technical and substantive secretariat support for the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will be provided, in close cooperation with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General, in consultation with the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development intends to designate within the Department a senior-level official, who, with the assistance of other staff members of the Department, including the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, will serve as a focal point for Member States and others involved in the preparatory work and will coordinate various inputs and contributions to this process. In addition, core secretariat arrangements for the preparatory work and the Conference itself would be reinforced through the assistance of specialists from the organizations of the United Nations system concerned.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution I, annex II, para. 17.131.

2/ See *ibid.*, resolution 1, annexes I, II and III.

3/ A/CONF.147/5-TD/B/AC.46/4, chap. II.



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Organizational session

15 and 16 April 1993

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 47/189, requested the Secretary-General to prepare draft rules of procedure for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session and, in this context, to include proposals for the participation of representatives of associate members of regional commissions, outside the negotiating process, and, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to allow them to contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process. The draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference are contained in the annex to this report.

2. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to invite to the Conference those listed in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 46/168, as well as representatives of relevant regional and subregional organizations.

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3. The Preparatory Committee may wish to request the General Assembly to invite associate members of regional commissions to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself in the capacity of observers, as it did in the case of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Assembly decision 46/469). In that case, associate members of regional commissions would be granted the right to designate representatives to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group. Such participation would thus be outside the negotiating process per se. If the Assembly so decides, the draft provisional rules of procedure would need to be amended accordingly.

Annex

DRAFT PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegations

Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of credentials

Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Credentials Committee

Rule 4

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

Provisional participation in the Conference

Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. OFFICERS

Elections

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, __ Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

General powers of the President

Rule 7

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his function, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Acting President

Rule 8

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Replacement of the President

Rule 9

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 10

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Composition

Rule 11

The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee shall constitute the General Committee. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Substitute members

Rule 12

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a member of his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chairman of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chairman of that Committee as his substitute. When serving on the General Committee, a Vice-Chairman of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he is of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Functions

Rule 13

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Duties of the Secretary-General

Rule 14

1. The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.
2. The Secretary-General may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his place at these meetings.
3. The Secretary-General shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 15

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

- (a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;
- (b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;
- (c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;
- (d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;
- (e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings and provide summary records of meetings;
- (f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;
- (g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 16

The Secretary-General, or any member of the secretariat designated by the Secretary-General for that purpose, may, at any time, make other oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Temporary President

Rule 17

The Secretary-General shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Decisions concerning organization

Rule 18

The Conference shall at its first meeting:

- (a) Adopt its rules of procedure;
- (b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;
- (c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;
- (d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 19

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches

Rule 20

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Points of order

Rule 21

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 22

The Chairman or Rapporteur of the Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Closing of the list of speakers

Rule 23

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Right of reply

Rule 24

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.
2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.
3. The representatives of a State may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 25

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 26

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 27

Subject to rule 38, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 28

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- (a) To suspend the meeting;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting;
- (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 29

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though these amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 30

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Decisions on competence

Rule 31

Subject to rule 21, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 32

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. DECISION-MAKING

General agreement

Rule 33

The Conference shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Conference is accomplished by general agreement.

Voting rights

Rule 34

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 35

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference and its subsidiary organs shall be taken in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and its committees, respectively.
2. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

Rule 36

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 37

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Conduct during voting

Rule 38

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point or order in connection with the process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 39

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Division of proposals

Rule 40

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments

Rule 41

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be considered as including amendments.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 42

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 43

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.
2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.
3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or State.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes, shall be elected.
2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

VIII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Main Committee

Rule 46

The Conference may establish a Main Committee as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Representation on the Main Committee

Rule 47

Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups

Rule 48

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.
2. Subject to the decision of the Plenary or the Conference, the Main Committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.
2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee in question, subject to the approval of that Committee, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Officers

Rule 50

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Quorum

Rule 51

1. The Chairman of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General or Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum.

Officers, conduct of business and voting

Rule 52

The rules contained in chapters II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairmen of the General and Credentials Committees and the chairmen of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote;

(b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Languages of the Conference

Rule 53

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation

Rule 54

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 55

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 56

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of the Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee concerned, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any working group thereof.

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principles

Rule 57

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the plenary.

Rule 58

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

Communiqués on private meetings

Rule 59

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the Conference.

XI. OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Rule 60

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of

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the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Representatives of national liberation movements

Rule 61

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Representatives of the specialized agencies*

Rule 62

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 63

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of regional and subregional organizations

Rule 64

Representatives designated by regional and subregional organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

* For the purpose of these rules, the term "specialized agencies" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Rule 65

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Rule 66

1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee.
2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the conference body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Written statements

Rule 67

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 66 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence.

XII. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Method of suspension

Rule 68

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 69

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.
